

**Amendment to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 12, with the following corrected paragraph:

1           The pre-processing stage places the input audio signal into a  
2 form that better facilitates feature extraction. The feature-extraction stage  
3 differs widely from algorithm to algorithm, but commonly-used features  
4 include (1) energy, either full-band, multi-band, low-pass, or high-pass, (2)  
5 zero crossings, (3) the frequency-domain shape of the signal, (4)  
6 periodicity measures, and (5) statistics of the speech and background  
7 noise. The thresholds comparison stage then uses the selected features  
8 and various thresholds of their values to determine if speech is present in  
9 or absent from the input audio signal. This usually involves use of some  
10 "hold-over" algorithm, or "on"-time minimum threshold, to ensure that  
11 detection of either presence or absence of speech lasts for at least a  
12 minimum period of time and does not oscillate on-and-off.